FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT STUDYING DRAFT LAW ON UNIONS

PY162153 Rio de Janeiro JOURNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 May 79 p 14 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires--The law with which the current military government plans to break down once and for all the remainders of the framework which up to 1976 was the backbone of Peronism--the unions--is now under consideration by President Jorge Rafael Videla. The draft law, which one could call the most important change effected by the military in power, involves a number of broad amendments of the current law, which basically abides by the guidelines prepared in 1946 by Juan Domingo Peron in his "Professional Associations Law," which gave rise to the strongest power and decisionmaking center of the country, capable of influencing every aspect of political activities.

Prepared according to instructions issued by the military junta, the draft law which the Labor Ministry submitted for the president's consideration is aimed at the following targets: Terminate the single workers central--in this case the General Labor Confederation [CGT], prohibit nationwide unions, discontinue compulsory membership in unions, and allow more than one union for each professional sector. It has been reported that some federations could be acknowledged. The law also forbids the unions to express support for any political party or candidate, either directly or indirectly. The most interesting aspect of the new law is that dealing with the economic power which the unions have had so far, since their executive boards manage fabulous amounts of money resulting from the compulsory contributions of the workers. The draft law provides for freedom of association and prohibits the unions from receiving funds other than those stemming from established monthly contributions. In the past the government was allowed, whenever it deemed necessary, to make a "donation" to the CGT which in turn was allowed to distribute "donations" among the unions.

Another marked change aimed at taking away from the unions' control over their members is connected with the management of the union's social services by the union leaders. According to the new law, all services provided by the unions--hospitals, resthouses, hotels--will have their own management, whose nature is not specified by the draft law. In the meantime current Argentine union leaders--both those who favor the regime and those who do not--have already expressed their disagreement with any amendment of the Professional Associations Law. Just recently, the two largest groups of the Argentine labor movement, the Committee of 25 and the National Labor Commission, clearly stated their support for the maintenance of the framework prevailing before 24 March 1976 and formally maintained to this date, even though it is weakened by federal intervention in the main unions and the CGT.

The implementation of the new law will no doubt evidence that the military regime wants to exterminate Peronism once and for all, if not from the idelogical point of view at least to deprive it of its material basis--economic power and capability to organize nationwide strikes, weapons with which the so-called Justicialism held in check various civilian and military administrations for several decades. At the same time the current labor leaders--all of almost all of whom have been trained by Peronism and who are vastly experienced in dealing with various regimes whether of force of not--will find in the new law the opportunity to show whether they still carry enough weight to take care of the new situation by adjusting to it or engaging in a frontal struggle.

COMMANDER IMPLIES REJECTION OF PAPAL DECISION

PY191008 Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 19 May 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (AFP)--Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, commander of the powerful III Army Corps, has stated that Argentina "will get what it deserves" in the border conflict with Chile over the Beagle Channel. The solution has been entrusted to the Vatican which is now studying the problem with delegations from the two countries in accordance with the Montevideo Act, signed in February. General Menendez said: "I will not pay any attention to anyone who is not an Argentine. In my opinion we will obtain that which belongs to this country." The officer gave this answer when he was asked about statements made by Chilean spokesmen who said recently that it is not suitable to make statements about the conflict while the Vatican is carrying out its mediation. A few days ago, Argentine President Jorge Rafale Videla hinted that a failure of the Vatican mediation was possible; if that happens, "any alternative will be open," according to widespread opinions in official circles.

NUCLEAR SELF-SUFFICIENCY GOAL REASSERTED

PY220012 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 20 May 79 p 9 PY

[Text] The president of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, returned from the FRG yesterday and stated that "we seek an objective which is not far away but which constitutes the guiding force of our activities--self-sufficiency in nuclear energy." Admiral Castro Madero visited Bonn where he participated together with other representatives of West European countries, Japan and Brazil in the meeting organized by the German Institute for International Relations to discuss "reconciliation between energy needs and nonproliferation." In his statements at Ezeiza International Airport Admiral Castro Madero described as "conflictive" the subject discussed during the meeting, at which "Argentina was able to state its position toward the issue."

He indicated that the government's policy on nuclear energy "remains unchanged," and pointed out the need to "strengthen the bonds with all Latin American countries." He added that "cooperation in the field of technology is one of the best means to achieve this strengthening." With regard to Argentina's cooperation with brother countries, the admiral indicated that "it has been stepped up through projects which we have with Peru, and especially with Bolivia and Uruguay." On the heavy water plant which Argentina plans to build, he said that there are two possible courses: "One is national technology which will assure us our own production of heavy water through an experimental heavy water plant, and the other course is the call for bids for an industrial heavy water plant which will provide the fuel for the four nuclear centrals which the executive branch has approved."

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNED ABOUT DISAPPEARANCE

PY181558 Paris AFP in Spanish 1523 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Text] Rome, 18 May (AFP)--It was disclosed here today that after the disappearance in Argentina of the person responsible for a committee which is investigating the disappearance of political prisoners, the Italian Foreign Ministry asked its embassy in Buenos Aires to intervene with the local authorities for his release. The missing person, Jorge Salvador Gullo, an Argentine of Italian origin, recently conducted a tour throughout Europe and especially in Italy to explain the objective of his committee, which receives reports on certain political kidnapings and on the disappearance of political prisoners in Argentina. Gullo, who returned to Argentina at the end of April, disappeared a short time after his arrival.

SILES ZUAZO THREATENED, POSTPONES SANTA CRUZ TRIP

PY191825 Paris AFP in Spanish 1643 GMT 19 May 79 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 19 May (AFP)--Former President Hernan Siles Zuazo, candidate for the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] will arrive on Sunday in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1,000 km east of here, where "$50,000 has been offered to the sniper who succeeds in killing him," according to press reports which have reached La Paz from that city. Santa Cruz civic institutions have asked that Siles Zuazo cancel his trip to Santa Cruz, "in order to prevent clashes among Bolivians." During Siles Zuazo's presidency 1956-1960, bloody events occurred in the town of Terebinto between peasants who supported the government and groups of civilian opponents to the then president, and several people were killed.

UDP Mobilizes Membership

PY191827 Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 79 PY

[Text] The political leadership of the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] has decreed a state of emergency and a general mobilization of its members in view of threats launched by small groups which oppose Hernan Siles Zuazo's candidacy, told the press that Siles will go to Santa Cruz to be proclaimed by the UDP there tomorrow, Sunday, despite threats against him. Meanwhile, in view of the accusation of having ordered the peasant march against Terebinto in Santa Cruz Department 22 years ago, Siles Zuazo [words indistinct] and confirmed that he will go to Santa Cruz to participate in the proclamation ceremony which will be held for him.

The UDP offices in Montero were destroyed by an explosion 2 days ago, and according to press reports there are clear signs that a confrontation is being prepared between UDP members and conservative and rightist groups in Santa Cruz.

The Interior Ministry reported that Col Raul Lopez Leyton has sent Hernan Siles Zuazo a letter asking him to refrain from visiting Santa Cruz on Sunday, which endangers the normal development of the electoral process since it is more important for the country and for his own electoral [word indistinct] to insure the climate of tranquility and avoid acts of violence.

The UDP leader [name indistinct] told the press yesterday that no gang of cocaine smugglers will be able to (?intimidate) the UDP candidate. He confirmed that Siles will go to Santa Cruz, because he has the same right as any Bolivian [words indistinct].

Airport Worker Killed

PA201549 Paris AFP in Spanish 1527 GMT 20 May 79 PA

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 20 May (AFP)--Telephone worker Erlain Vasquez died here today in the wake of a shootout between rival political groups, thus becoming the first fatality of the current electoral campaign. The death occurred in an atmosphere of confusion which began early today when armed civilian groups occupied El Trompillo International Airport building and runway in this city to prevent presidential candidate Hernan Siles Zuazo's arrival.

The paramilitary goups are led by Carlos Valverde Barbery, former minister of state and local leader of the Bolivian Socialist Falange. The armed civilians fired into the air as police officers approached to evict them from the international airport building, which was closed by aeronautics officials.

Visit Delayed

PA201702 Paris AFP in Spanish 1639 GMT 20 May 79 PA

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 20 May (AFP)--This city's airport is being occupied by armed civilians, flights have been suspended and the police continue to surround the air terminal while relatives of telephone worker Erlain Vasquez mourn his death. Vasquez was killed today during a shootout between rival political groups in a climate of confusion which broke out at dawn today when several armed civilians occupied the air terminal to prevent the arrival of presidential candidate Hernan Siles Zuazo.

Siles Zuazo is blamed by civic leaders here for excesses by several hundred peasants during the Terebinto incidents when he was chief of state. The candidate has postponed his visit to this city, according to leaders of the political front supporting his candidacy in this capital of eastern Bolivia, located 1,000 km from La Paz. Military authorities refused to meet reporters who wanted official information on the local situation. All radio stations suspended regular programs to set up a local network.

'Fascist Coup' Seen

PA201838 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1738 GMT 20 May 79 PA

[By Francisco Roque Bacarreza]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 20 May (EFE)--The tropical city of Santa Cruz, 900 km east of here, was the scene of incidents between rightwing and leftwing groups today which resulted in one worker killed and two youths injured, it was reported here.

Siles Zuazo, together with the People's Democratic Union (UDP) leaders, had been expected to arrive in Santa Cruz early to participate in two political rallies organized by the left. The UDP candidate called a news conference at the La Paz airport today, from where he had planned to go to Santa Cruz. Before local reporters, he denounced a plot to impede first the proclamation of the UDP candidacy and then the 1 July elections.

"This is a step toward a fascist coup," the leftist politician said. He announced that the UDP will pursue its national campaign, "because no one is going to keep us from responding to the expectations of UDP members in Santa Cruz." Siles Zuazo and the UDP leaders resigned themselves to staying in La Paz today.

Santa Cruz was experiencing great tension today since a violent reaction was feared on the part of Siles Zuazo's supporters.

About 500 people, armed with all sorts of firearms, were positioned at El Trompillo Airport. During one of the confusing incidents this morning, a vehicle of the La Paz morning newspaper PRESENCIA's correspondent was machinegunned in front of the aeronautical club in Santa Cruz. The armed individuals who occupied the airport also machinegunned a jeep which was promoting the UDP candidate.

Padilla: Avoid Violence

PY220245 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 May 79 PY

[Relay from Santa Cruz de la Sierra by Daniel Alarcon Morales]

[Excerpts] President David Padilla Arancibia and his entourage went to Viru Viru at 1500 today where, together with the Japanese ambassador and members of the cabinet, he laid the cornerstone of the future international airport. Later they all went to the main square of Santa Cruz, where the populace attended the signing of documents marking the initiation of the construction of the international airport of Viru Viru which will be highly significant for the country. Speaking at this rally, President Padilla urged the Bolivian people, especially politicians, to avoid violence to allow fulfillment of the democratic goals based on the armed forces' impartiality.

He said: To these people, who are aware of their duties and who are steadfast defenders of their rights, I want to reiterate the armed forces' commitment which demands the clear, sincere response of all Bolivians who want to live in peace and security. If harsh measures are required to avoid chaos and division among the Bolivian people, the government will not hesitate to apply these measures in compliance with the laws, because it cannot let the country fall into an uncertain fate [words indistinct].

PARTIES VYING FOR PRESIDENCY DROP TO EIGHT

PY181704 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0529 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Text] The number of candidates for the July presidential elections has decreased to eight, after the Social Progress Movement of the Left [Marcha de Avance Social de Izquierda--MASI], headed by Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas and Guillermo Aponte, announced its withdrawal.

Fourteen days before the parties have to officially announce their candidates for president, vice president and congress, the following parties are still running in the electoral campaign: The Democratic and Popular Union, Hernan Siles Zuazo and Jaime Paz Zamora; National Revolutionary Movement, Victor Paz Estenssoro and Luis Ossio Sanjines; Nationalist Democratic Action [Alianza Democratica y Nacionalista--ADN], Hugo Banzer and Mario Rolon Anaya; Popular Alliance for National Integration, Rene Bernal Escalante and Mario Gutierrez; Socialist Party, Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz; Workers Vanguard, Ricardo Catoira and Filemon Escobar; Tupac Katari Indian Movement, Luciano Tapia; and the Bolivian Unity Party, Walter Gonzales.

The party lists for Congress, which will have a total of 117 deputies and 27 senators, have not yet been released. The registration of voters will close on 31 May, thus concluding the legal and administrative phase of the 1 July elections. Although there are only 2 weeks left, the departmental electoral courts have reported that the voter registration "is lower than expected, but has had a favorable increase in the last few days."

Radio stations which were apparently occupied by opponents of the leftist candidate aired slogans against Siles Zuazo today, calling him the "enemy of Santa Cruz."

Today's incidents in Santa Cruz became the worst challenge to the Padilla administration's electoral intentions. The regime faces the alternatives of intervening strongly at El Trompillo Airport or letting the situation ride, with unforeseeable consequences.

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

JN171140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Brasilia, 17 May--Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf has stated that the Arab area is exposed to momentous dangers.

At a press conference here today, the Iraqi vice president said that the continued Zionist-imperialist aggression against the Palestinian Arab people is a threat to peace and exposes the world to tremendous dangers. One of these dangers is depriving the world of energy resources in the event the situation explodes.

Ma'ruf called on the international community to check this aggression and to realize that escalating this aggression will affect the economic and oil situation. Ma'ruf said that all the Arab countries will resort to the use of oil as a weapon to protect themselves.

The Iraqi vice president praised Brazil's stand toward the Arab cause. He said: Brazil is anxious for peace and security to be established in the area. It also believes that peace can never be achieved unless Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and recognizes the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to return and to establish their own independent state. The Brazilian stand is in harmony with the UN General Assembly resolutions which acknowledge these rights of the Palestinian people. However, Israel has flouted these resolutions and has not respected international public opinion.

Ma'ruf said that his talks with Brazilian officials dealt with the means to develop bilateral relations, particularly economic, trade and cultural ties. An air transport agreement will be signed between the two countries to handle expanded trade. Another agreement on cultural and information cooperation will also be signed, he added. Ma'ruf said that he expects the number of Brazilian technicians, workers, and administrative cadres working in Iraq to reach 10,000 by the end of this year. He stressed that the Iraqi-Brazilian oil agreement has so far experienced no technical difficulties or problems.

On Iraqi-Iranian relations, Ma'ruf expressed confidence that these relations of good neighborliness will continue to prosper. The change which occurred in Iran will have a positive influence not only on Iraq, but also on the Arab homeland in general. The many resolutions adopted by the new Iranian government have been welcomed by Iraq, namely, Iran's decision to recognize the PLO, sever economic and political relations with Israel, withdraw from CENTO, end its role as a policeman for colonialist interests in the area, and join the nonlined movement in which Iraq fully believes.

Ma'ruf said that Iraq considers oil price increases as a fair matter considering current economic circumstances because oil revenues are the primary source for development. Ma'ruf stressed that imperialism and the greed of monopolist companies are behind world inflation. Oil price increases have contributed only 2 percent to this inflation which exceeds 30 percent. He added: Oil revenues have greatly suffered from the fall of the dollar. This has led to a 35-percent drop in the value of oil in recent years.

Joint Statement Issued

JN181800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 May 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May--Brazil has officially recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. It affirmed that there can be no just and lasting peace in the Arab area without the complete withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from all of the occupied Arab territories and the safeguarding of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. This was stated in a joint statement released in Baghdad and Brazilia this evening on the talks which Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and the delegation accompanying him held with Brazilian officials during their official visit to Brazil. The joint statement says that during the visit the two sides held friendly talks on the close relations between the two countries. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab region and international issues of common interest.

In an atmosphere of friendship, confidence and mutual respect, Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president of the Republic of Iraq, and Antonio Aureliano Chaves, vice president of the Federative Republic of Brazil, also held talks on regional and international issues of common interest and on relations in all fields and ways to strengthen them in a manner that is harmonious with the strong ties between the two friendly countries.

The statement also says that Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi held fruitful meetings with his Brazilian counterpart, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro, on important bilateral and international issues.

Iraqi Information Minister Sa'id Qasim Hammudi and Brazilian Minister of Social Communications Said Farhat held constructive talks on bilateral relations in cultural and information fields.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of relations between the Republic of Iraq and the Federative Republic of Brazil and affirmed their determination to strengthen these relations in the economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields to serve the common interests of the Iraqi and Brazilian peoples on the basis of respecting the principle of sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

The Iraqi vice president reviewed the unionist steps taken by the Iraqi and Syrian leadership to unify the two countries in accordance with the Joint National Action Charter. The Iraqi vice president also reviewed in detail the results of the Ninth Arab Summit Conference and the resolutions of the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference held in Baghdad.

The Brazilian Government paid close attention to the information conveyed to it and expressed hope that the unionist efforts currently being made will materialize for the benefit of the two countries and the Arab nation. The Brazilian Government also expressed the hope that the work done at the recent meetings in Baghdad will help consolidate unity and solidarity among the Arab countries. The two sides reviewed the current international situation. They reaffirmed the joint stand of their two governments in supporting the struggle of the world peoples against all forms of colonialism and racial segregation and apartheid for the sake of the national independence and full sovereignty of these peoples over their countries and control of their natural resources.

The two sides affirmed their full support for the African liberation movements in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The two sides paid special attention to the problems of the developing countries whose economic conditions are still deteriorating. They affirmed the need to exert efforts to implement the resolutions of the UN General Assembly adopted at its special sessions on the establishment of a new economic order based on justice and equality.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the work being done by the Group of 77, the nonalined movement, and the numerous regional groupings in the developing countries to strengthen international cooperation and to establish fair and equitable relations between the advanced and the developing countries.

The two sides affirmed their full support for the UN organization and the goals and principles included in its charter.

The two sides asserted the significance of continuing contacts between the two countries on various levels in order to consolidate relations between them.

Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf extended an official invitation to Brazilian Vice President Auereliano Chaves to visit Iraq. Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi also extended an official invitation to Brazilian Foreign Minister Sarvia Guerreiro to visit Iraq. The two invitations were accepted with pleasure, and the date of the two visits will be fixed later.

FURTHER DETAILS ON OPENING OF PLO OFFICE

PY181245 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0240 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 17 May (LATIN)--Itamaraty revealed tonight that Brazil is studying a request made by Iraq and other Arab countries to allow the opening of a PLO office here. According to Itamaraty's spokesman, Bernardo Pericas, the request was presented yesterday by Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf who stated today in Sao Paulo that Brazil has recognized the PLO. Pericas explained that Brazil recognized the PLO at the 1975 UN General Assembly, which approved a resolution recognizing the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

According to information provided by diplomatic sources, Farid Sawan has been in Brasilia for 10 days to negotiate the opening of a PLO office in Brazil. Sawan is an officer of the Arab League in charge of PLO affairs.

Introduced as Adviser

PY211410 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 May 79 PY

[Text] Itamaraty has tried to convince Arab diplomats to postpone the appointment of Farid Sawan as PLO representative to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. The initiative has been rejected, however, by the Arabs who argued that Sawan will be formally introduced as adviser, charged with Palestinian affairs of the Arab League in Brazil. New contacts will be made today in Brasilia between the Arab diplomats and Itamaraty to discuss the presentation of Farid Sawan's credentials.

Recognition of PLO Protested

PY220112 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 21 May 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Deputy Jorge Vianna, Brazilian Democratic Movement-Bahia State, made a speech at the Chamber of Deputies today to protest the Brazilian Government's recognition of the PLO. Vianna said that the Palestinian people will not build their fatherland through the bloodthirsty PLO.

MORE STRIKES REPORTED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PY181254 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Seven workers of the [STIB] construction firm were arrested early tonight in Osasco. The workers are on strike demanding a 30-percent wage increase. Among the workers arrested are members of the wage negotiation committee. In Rio de Janeiro, unversity professors today completed their fourth day of strike but Regional Labor Delegate (Luis Carlos de Brito) believes that an agreement may be reached by Monday. In Minas Gerais State, teachers today began their first strike in 20 years. Teachers of 50 schools have already joined the strike to demand better pay and working conditions.

Contrary to what government interventor Guaracy Horta predicted, the leaders of the Sao Bernardo and Diadema metalworker unions were not reinstated today. In a meeting held last night the union leaders decided to impose conditions to resume office. The only condition disclosed is that they will resume their posts only after the interventor departs. Therefore, the interventor will not be able to turn the unions over to union boards, as was done when the federal government intervened the unions. In Brasilia, the Education Secretariat reinstated 34 of the 39 teachers who were dismissed during the 3-week strike in Brasilia public schools. Five leaders of the strike have not yet been reinstated.

MINISTERS VOICE SUPPORT FOR ALCOHOL PROGRAM

PY181809 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] We are engaged in replacing oil as a source of fuel, and alcohol is playing a very important role in this endeavor, Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals said in connection with the government's position toward the alcohol and gasoline problem. Cesar Cals believes that Rio Grande do Sul produces very little alcohol as yet and this must be changed through the national alcohol program. He added that distribution of alcohol-gasoline mixture in all the states will be studied this year, in order to facilitate the disposal of the sugarcane harvest. The government is not greatly concerned over the supply framework; their main concern nowadays is to increase alcohol demand.

As for coal, the minister said that its production will be stepped up to replace petroleum byproducts as much as possible. He believes that the south of Brazil, especially Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, will play an important role in the utilization of new energy sources. Meanwhile, Industries and Commerce Minister Joao Camilo Pena arrived in Porto Alegre at noon. He believes that we are experiencing a difficult period since industrial concerns are heavily in debt and with little capital. With regard to the reduction of credit terms for cars, Camilo Pena indicated that this was done to encourage the production of alcohol-powered cars. He also said that the ABC strikes had reduced the output of the car assembly plants, thus giving rise to the reduction of credit terms. However, the minister discounted a recession in the auto industry because this industry is capable of adjusting to the new system.

CONGRESSIONAL BLOCS PROPOSED INSTEAD OF PARTIES

PY181241 Sao Paulo Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Deputy Marcelo Linhares, deputy leader of the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA], confirmed today in the Chamber of Deputies that the government will propose the creation of congressional blocs as a temporary solution until new parties are created. These blocs will be created as soon as ARENA and the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) are dissolved and until new parties are created. This proposal was made by deputy Nelson Marchezan, the ARENA leader in the Chamber of Deputies.

NEWSPAPERS CONDEMN U.S. PRESSURE AGAINST CHILE

PY181319 Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 18 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 17 May (AFP)--The United States seeks to exert "an inadmissible and irrational" diplomatic pressure against Chile, the lead editorials of the Santiago press stated today. All newspapers carried, for the second consecutive day, the decision of the U.S. State Department to review its relations with the government headed by Gen Augusto Pinochet.

The influential newspaper EL MERCURIO stated that it was natural for the ambassador to be called back for consultation, but it warned that "it is inadmissible for U.S. officials to state that the United States will review its overall relations with Chile."

EL MERCUIRO adds: "The reaction of mid-level political and official U.S. circles show a degree of prejudice which has led to the kind of diplomatic errors made by the Americans in the last few years."

LA TERCERA adds: "These must be times of calm vigilance."

For its part, the progovernment newspaper EL CRONISTA analyzed the (?differences) between Chile and the United States and noted that "the manner of the enforcement of the law is one of these differences."

EL CRONISTA added: "Chileans are surprised that the United States, for years identified as the champion of freedom and respect, does not hesitate to repudiate those same basic principles it says it defends when things do not have the results they expected."

The Chilean press extensively carried the statement issued by Adm Jose Toribio Merino, navy commander and government junta member, in which he warned that "we will not accept meddling from anyone.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGE PROTEST

PY181307 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2126 GMT 17 May 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 17 May--Hundreds of students from Chile's National University today held a 10-hour fast in one of the main university buildings to protest the arrests of several of their fellow students during a Labor Day demonstration. The fast was held after the student centers of the National University, the main university of the country, suspended a strike called for today to protest the arrests of the students. Some 20,000 students from the Santiago schools had been expected to take part in the strike. The university has 54,000 students throughout the country. The fast started at 0900 local time and ended at 1800. It was held at the university's Methodology School where 1,500 students held protest demonstrations which ended without incident.

During the fast some leaders called for "a peaceful mobilization" so that students "will continue with the movement until freedom is restored to the university." The impromptu speeches were received with applause and shouts of "freedom, freedom for the university", and "democracy and freedom in a new society." Later the students held the fast in the gardens of the Methodology School while they were observed by other students who repudiated the movement, accusing their leaders of carrying out "strictly political activities which had nothing to do with university affairs."

CFP-CONSERVATIVE PARTY ALLIANCE FORESEEN IN ASSEMBLY

PA171804 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1235 GMT 17 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Political activities to determine the leadership of the National Chamber of Representatives have begun with the two groups that won the majority of seats in the popular election of 29 April taking the lead. The concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] and the Democratic Left Party will apparently dominate the election of new parliamentary leaders.

The CFP has announced to the country that it intends to make its present director, Asaad Bucaram, president of the chamber. On the other hand, the Democratic Left Party is calmly waiting for future contingencies to be produced by the present round of understandings. However, the party has said that it will act on its own, without pacts or alliances, which it described as vices of the old political system that the party seeks to uproot once and for all.

For his part, CFP leader Asaad Bucaram admitted that he had exchanged opinions with Rafael Armijos Valdivieso, director of the Conservative Party, although he emphatically denied having established an alliance to assure himself of the legislative majority needed for his election.

Bucaram said that dialog between political leaders would not necessarily imply a search for understandings in order to divide up the country. It is not a case of a dialog between two criminals, which would justify Dr Huerta Montalvo's haste in denouncing us, Bucaram said. He took advantage of the opportunity to praise his former opponent, Colonel Armijos Valdivieso.

From the statements made by the two leaders, it can be deduced that Bucaram could very well turn to the conservatives in order to win the top post in the legislature. These plans, however, would come up against the express opposition of some Blue Party legislators who have voiced disagreement with the possible alliance.

These assumptions can be confirmed only after the Conservative Party assembly, which is scheduled to be held soon in the country's main port. The proposed alliance could lead to dangerous splits within the Conservative Party and would at the same time cause complications regarding the position taken by CFP deputies belonging to the People's Democratic Movement.

When we talked with Asaad Bucaram, his statements revealed a sudden admiration for Colonel Armijos. Here is the interview:

[Begin Bucaram recording] [Question] A few days ago you told the communications media that you would become president of the assembly.

[Answer] The people elected me to do this, gentlemen. When the people say: I want [something] you may be (?surprised), but I am going to be the president.

[Question] The CFP does not have enough seats for this. By calculation, the CFP has no more than 33 seats.

[Answer] We have filed an appeal in this regard and you must help us in this appeal in order that justice may prevail. We are appealing to the Supreme Court of Justice. This is a good opportunity to state that the appeal has not followed due course. I do not know why, but the Supreme [Electoral] Tribunal is holding up the appeal. It should be passed on to the Supreme Court.

When there is a violation of the law, when the law is amended without authorization by the tribunal--because no one has given the tribunal the power to amend the electoral law--there is a higher authority than the tribunal, which is the Supreme Court of Justice, in view of the lack of constitutional guarantees. This is provided for by the electoral law itself, gentlemen.

[Question] Would this hypothetical circumstance detected or reported by Dr Francisco Huerta Montalvo be acceptable in your opinion? In other words, would the public consider the alliance of the CFP and the Conservative Party, which has always been your vigorous adversary, to be advantageous? Can the country believe that there will be no alliance for your election?

[Answer] Well, there can be understandings and there may be conventions. Did we not once have an agreement with Dr Huerta Montalvo? And I can say that between Dr Huerta Montalvo and Colonel Armijos, the latter is far superior to the former from the civic point of view.

[Question] The Conservatives were your most direct adversaries in past elections.

[Answer] Well, the fact that we were direct adversaries does not mean that we should continue striking at each other. We have to reach some manner of a truce or something of the kind for the future progress of the country. [end recording]

Another serious possibility for leadership of the national Chamber of Representatives is Dr Rodrigo Borjas Cevallos, whom we consulted about the possible CFP-Conservative Party alliance. [Begin Borja recording] That is the old style of cheap politics which we must overcome--one in which the past enemies, who heaped insults and abuse on each other, decide to forget everything and share the budgetary spoils. [end recording]

Roldos Issues Communique

PA180426 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 79 PA

[Text] After Asaad Bucaram denied press reports of an alleged pact with the Conservatives, President-Elect Jaime Roldos issued the following press communique today:

In view of the political speculation published by the press today, I wish to make an appeal to common sense and prudence. Political leaders now more than ever must set an example of maturity and dignity, conform with our ideological principles and respect the decisions of the people. The new government has not yet assumed power and already there is sensationalist speculation and comments which do very little to help democracy and which deserve our strongest reproach. These are maneuvers conspiring against the rebirth of our democracy and cause serious harm to a nation that has just given the world an example of freedom. Although these are only rumors and speculation, which I refuse to believe, the widespread publicity they have received could well confuse public opinion. Therefore, I consider it my duty to remind you that on 29 April, the Ecuadorean people voted for a change of political methods and for the nation's moral recovery. In view of all this, and aware as I am of the mandate bestowed upon me, I firmly declare that as president I will not permit anyone to stray from the constitutional and legal statutes, and that it is our duty to respect and enforce respect for them. I will not allow anybody to scoff at the clear popular pronouncements expressed at the polls. Therefore, let nobody attack the people's decision.

I hereby reiterate my appeal for concord and national unity and urge all to work with determination for the fulfillment of our obligations. Loyal to my promises to the people, on Monday I will start a national tour and start a working dialog with all sectors of the country. The people gave me a clear mandate at the polls. Now it is up to me to respond, as I have always done, with loyalty to the fatherland, to democracy and to the ideals that inspired my electoral campaign.

COLOMBIANS ACCUSED OF EXAGGERATING KILLINGS

PA201226 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0329 GMT 20 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 19 May (EFE)--President Luis Herrera Campins today accused Colombian officials of "exaggerating" the incidents in which Colombian citizens were supposedly killed by Venezuelan police. Herrera Campins, who met today with Colombian newsmen in the presidential home, affirmed that three of the individuals reportedly killed are "very much alive." He said that the investigation of the incidents being conducted by his country is in the preliminary stage and that it is very sensitive. He added that the results will be announced as soon as this phase is completed.

According to unconfirmed reports, approximately 400 persons were killed in the alleged slaughter which occurred approximately 2 months ago on the border between the two countries. Regarding the conflict between the two countries over the demarcation of marine and submarine areas in the Gulf of Venezuela, Herrera Campins said that he will talk with Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala regarding means and channels for the negotiations. Herrera Campins and Turbay Ayala will meet soon in the Colombian city of Caragena de Indias during a meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Andean Pact.

GUERRILLA COMMANDERS ACCEPT PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY

PA201219 Paris AFP in Spanish 2358 GMT 19 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 19 May (AFP)--Two former Venezuelan guerrilla chiefs pardoned Friday by the president of the republic have come out publicly after 17 years underground to explain the conditions of their return to legal political life. At the same time the afternoon press announced that the extreme "hard" leftwing will condemn the two "former commanders," Julio Escalona and Marcos Gomez, to death for treason and desertion. Continuing his pacification policy, President Luis Herrera, who was inaugurated on 12 March, yesterday decreed the suspension of arrest warrants for armed rebellion issued against four former guerrilla chiefs.

Escalona, Gomez and Fernando Soto Rojas belonged to the revolutionary organization and Diego Salazar to the Venezuelan Revolutionary Party, led by Douglas Bravo. Although Bravo continues to remain underground, he may also benefit from the presidential clemency. However, he continues to reject the amnesty measures as a whole because he believes they are partial and discriminatory. He demands a general amnesty. Meanwhile, the press conference held by Escalona and Gomez occurred in a very pleasant atmosphere. It took place on the lower floor of a building located in one of Caracas' most luxurious districts and whisky flowed freely. Outside the building some 30 youths displayed huge red flags with the insignia of the Trotskiyite Socialist League, a legal organization that Escalona and Gomez say they will join.

The two said that at this time the armed struggle has no chance of success and that they accepted clemency in order to join the legal opposition. From now on their goal will be to fight administrative corruption, support labor struggles and work for the "new perspective" of the united left. According to the afternoon press, another extreme left group, the Red Flag, which in future will call itself the "M-18," different from the Colombian M-19 organization, will sentence Escalona and Gomez to death for breaking the agreement on the thesis of the general amnesty and intensification of the armed struggle. Observers have noted, however, that the Venezuelan guerrillas were practically eliminated at the beginning of the present decade.

RESIDENT VISAS TO BE GRANTED TO COLOMBIANS

PA211454 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0422 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 29 May (EFE)--The Venezuelan Government will grant resident visas to Colombian citizens who can prove that they have been living in this country for more than 5 years. Interior Minister Rafael Andres Montes de Oca said this during a speech he delivered yesterday at the 10th assembly of Venezuelan industrial chambers and associations in Puerto la Cruz in the eastern part of the country. The minister admitted that most Colombians living in Venezuela are "hard-working people" and denied that the delinquents on the streets had come from abroad.

Montes de Oca explained that the granting of resident visas to Colombians who have been in Venezuela more than 5 years is one of the measures adopted by the new administration to keep track of foreigners and be aware of the exact number entering Venezuela. "In the case of Colombians, the largest group of foreign residents in Venezuela," he said, "a wide-ranging control program is about to begin by granting visas to all those who can prove that they have families and have been working here for a minimum of 5 years." He also noted that the granding of cedulas to foreigners in Venezuela will allow the government to maintain closer control including the use of fingerprints, over the migrant population.

PREVIOUS REGIME LEAVES DEBT OF $25 BILLION

PA212250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1911 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 May (AFP)--Andres Mercau, Venezuela's delegate to the Economic Advisory Council of the Andean Pact, said here today that Venezuela has a debt of 100 billion bolivares ($25 billion), left behind by the previous regime. Mercau returned to his country today after delivering to the council a balance sheet covering the 10 years of the Andean Pact. With regard to his country's large debt, Mercau said that "fortunately it can be controlled" not only because of the country's economic potential, but also because of the austerity program of the present government. After noting that Venezuela derives 67 percent of its fiscal income from oil, Mercau pointed out that his country "has sowed the product of this income because some day there will be no oil." In this regard, he noted that the present government is implementing three big programs.

One involves the construction of a large hydroelectric central capable of supplying "half of South America" with energy. Another program is aimed at the production of 5 million tons of iron. Present iron production amounts to 1.2 million tons. The third program will be aimed at the production of 250,000 tons of aluminum. Mercau characterized the Andean Pact countries' presidential summit meeting scheduled for 26 May in Cartagena, Colombia, as "the first truly Andean meeting because past ones have been only circumstantial." Mercau concluded by stating: "Venezuela is ready to give to that meeting all the political support that the Andean Pact requires."

BRIEFS

TORTURE CENTER DISCOVERED--A clandestine cemetery and a torture center used by agents of the Venezuelan Technical Police [as heard] have been discovered by judicial officials near Caracas. The center has been used to torture prisoners and to eliminate embarrassing witnesses. [Text] [Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1130 GMT 17 May 79 PY]

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF CARAZO'S VISIT

PA211445 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0152 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Cancun, Mexico, 20 May (EFE)--Costa Rica and Mexico today asked that petroleum be used "within a concept of common responsibility to mankind." The joint communique issued at the end of Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo's 7-hour visit to Mexico indicated that the two countries believe that the energy problems demand "priority and urgent" attention. According to the document, fuels have an effect on the economies of developing petroleum importing countries and hinder healthy international economic relations. Carazo and President Lopez Portillo agreed that all countries, through the United Nations, should participate in efforts to place everything related to the supply and use of hydrocarbons "within a concept of common responsibility to mankind."

The communique indicated that the two countries will continue with their efforts to satisfactorily conclude a regional agreement for tuna fishing and conservation in the eastern Pacific. This agreement, it added, should recognize the rights of riparian states to the fishing resources located off their coasts within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Regarding the situation in Nicaragua, the Mexican and Costa Rican presidents noted that the "mass violation" of human rights offends the peoples' democratic conscience and is viewed by the entire region "as an international problems which demands careful attention and opportune measures to facilitate its solution." Regarding bilateral relations, the two governments expressed their determination to increase cooperation "in all areas that can bring mutual benefit" or contribute to regional solidarity.

After expressing their support for the new international economic order, the two presidents stressed the steps which Latin American countries have taken in that direction through the establishment of organizations such as the Latin American Economic System, the Caribbean multinational shipping line and the economic group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries. Lopez Portillo expressed support for Costa Rica's proposal to create a "university for peace" and stressed his government's willingness to find formulas that will give Costa Rican products greater access to the Mexican market in order to contribute to the reduction of Costa Rica's trade deficit with Mexico. The communique said that Carazo invited the Mexican president to visit Costa Rica soon but does not indicate if Lopez Portillo accepted the invitation.

DEFENSE SECRETARY SAYS MEXICO 'NOT AGGRESSIVE'

PA211610 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2304 GMT 20 May 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 20 May (EFE)--It was reported here today that National Defense Secretary (War Ministry) Gen Felix Galvan Lopez said that Mexico does not buy arms because it is not an aggressive country. He made the statement upon his return from several European countries. "I did not go to Europe to buy arms. Mexico does not buy arms. It has enough arms to defend its sovereignty and maintain domestic peace. Mexico is not an aggressive country," the military officer stressed. However, General Galvan Lopez affirmed that there is a possibility of Mexico acquiring planes and helicopters from France. The planes and helicopters will serve to help the civilian population in the event of disasters and to train cadets at the National Air Force Academy.

The defense secretary visited the Netherlands, France and Romania a few days ago. These are countries, he said, which possess an advanced military technology in the building of fighter planes, armored vehicles and light weapons and in training. Regarding these weapons, Galvan Lopez explained that Mexico does not have access to them because they are very expensive. He emphasized that " no deals were made between Mexico and France for the purchase of weapons." Finally, he said that the current situation in Europe is very stable, especially in the socialist countries.

NO DIPLOMATIC BREAKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES CONSIDERED

PA212111 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1958 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 21 May (EFE)--Foreign Affairs Secretary Jorge Castaneda said today that Mexico is not considering the possibility of breaking diplomatic relations with other Central American governments, specifically with El Salvador. The foreign secretary was referring to El Salvador in replying to a specific question on this country during a news conference at the Foreign Secretariat. The question was asked in the search for information on whether Mexico is preparing to break relations with other governments which, like that of Nicaragua, stand accused of violating human rights, specifically in the Central American area. Castaneda replied negatively in the presence of dozens of domestic and foreign news correspondents. However, he said that it is possible that other cases might arise in other countries as a result of which Mexico could decide to break its ties with them. Nevertheless, he said that the break with Nicaragua, which was announced by President Lopez Portillo yesterday, does not represent a general policy. "We must proceed in a (?cautious) manner," the foreign secretary said.

OFFICIALS NOTE SMOOTHNESS OF CABINET SHUFFLE

PA181235 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0315 GMT 18 May 79 PA

[Text] The cabinet changes constitute no political crisis for the government; they are understandable. This was confirmed by the smooth way in which they took place, Mexican President Lopez Portillo has said. He gave assurance that the changes do not affect the administration's overall policy and that the continuity of official programs is guaranteed by the president's presence. Lopez Portillo insisted that it must be remembered that this is a presidential rather than a parliamentary regime. It is the president of the republic who is responsible for the executive branch. His coworkers are secretaries. About the cabinet shuffle's timing, 1 day before Fidel Castro Ruz' arrival in our country, the president said that this means that the country is calm and that his team can be replaced without much ado.

The change of men does not entail a change of banners, new Government Secretary Enrique Olivares Santana said after noting that Mexico's political reform is not characteristic of a government given to rhetoric. He voiced his conviction that there is no party that can stand up to Mexico. [sentence as heard] As he took office, Olivares Santana said that the political reform will be clean, with respect for all. We will enrich the exercise of our freedom. Its accomplishment will be up to the citizens and parties. Olivares Santana, who has been a Mexican deputy, Senate leader, teacher leader and until yesterday director of (VANOBRAS), recognized the talent, integrity and honesty of his predecessor and insisted that the moral force of the men who created the republic is still evident.

PEMEX DIRECTOR SAYS MEXICAN OIL FOR SALE

PA181406 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0449 GMT 18 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 17 May (EFE)--Mexico will sell its oil without being influenced by ideological matters, Jorge Diaz Serrano, Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) general director said here today. "Mexican oil is for sale; that is what it is for," he indicated as he declined to comment on a possible sale of gas and oil to Cuba. "President Jose Lopez Portillo will make the announcement if negotiations to that effect are carried out," he added.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT CARAZO HOPES FOR ISOLATION OF NICARAGUA

PA212048 Paris AFP in Spanish 1904 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 21 May (AFP)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo implied in statements disclosed here today that the Mexican decision to break with Nicaragua will entail future continental isolation of Anastasio Somoza's regime. In an exclusive interview from San Jose with a Colombian radio network, Carazo voiced solidarity with Mexico's position and discarded any conflict between his country and Nicaragua. "I am very satisfied that President Lopez Portillo made that decision," the Costa Rican president noted.

To Carazo, Mexico's example should be followed by other democratic countries in Latin America "because there is no other alternative." Asked whether a hemisphere-wide move to isolate the Somoza regime is in the making, Carazo replied: "We hope that will happen." And when it was pointed out to him that Cuban Chief of State Fidel Castro had reportedly committed himself not to get involved in the Nicaraguan issue, Carazo said emphatically: "We do not have relations with that man or his country. Therefore, we are acting on our own initiative.

BRIEFS

MOBILE TELEPHONE CENTRALS--San Jose--The Costa Rican Institute of Electricity [ICE] recently signed a contract with a Japanese firm for the purchase of 23 mobile telephone centrals, which will satisfy the telephone demands in the country for the 1980-1981 period, it was announced by ICE sources. The flexibility of the system allows it to be moved from one place to another, wherever there is a demand for that service. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 May 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

EMBASSY SITUATION AT APPARENT IMPASSE; VIOLENCE CONTINUES

Venezuelan Communique

PA220152 Paris AFP in Spanish 2304 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 21 May (AFP)--The Salvadoran Government has offered gurantees to the occupants of the Venezuelan Embassy in San Salvador so that they can leave the embassy, the Foreign Ministry announced here today. The ministry stressed in an official communique that in response to Venezuela's efforts, the Salvadoran foreign minister himself has expressed his government's willingness to provide facilities and guarantees to the members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) so that they can leave the embassy they seized 1 week ago. The communique expresses the hope that the BPR militants "will modify the attitude of intransigence they have so far maintained in the face of the solutions which have been proposed."

Meanwhile, according to a VENPRES agency report from San Salvador, the embassy's occupants told Venezuelan Ambassador Santiago Ochoa Antich today that they will not leave the embassy until they receive instructions from their leaders. Ochoa, who managed to escape from the embassy yesterday along with eight other officials, talked to the BPR members through a window today. The latter confirmed their decision not to accept any type of political asylum and indicated that the only thing they might possibly accept is a guaranteed transfer to the San Salvador Cathedral, which continues to be occupied by BPR members.

Further on Asylum Request

PA211936 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1822 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 21 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian Embassy in San Salvador announced here today, Monday, that it knows nothing about a request for asylum in that country for the 10 leftists who are occupying the Venezuelan Embassy. According to official reports, the leftists are now alone at the embassy. By virtue of a settlement between Venezuelan negotiators and the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the Venezuelan ambassador, Santiago Ochoa Antich, was allowed to abandon the embassy Sunday night, while the other seven hostages were allowed to leave this morning.

Maria Teresa de Castro, Panamanian charge d'affaires in El Salvador, said here today that it is up to her government to decide what is to be done if such a request is filed. The Venezuelan Embassy, in northwestern San Salvador, remains heavily guarded, and BPR leaders, who at noon today had not yet received confirmation as to the evacuation of the diplomatic mission, expressed their fear that it may be attacked in the next few hours. A high-ranking official source told ACAN-EFE that it was understood that the case of the Venezuelan Embassy was the result of a settlement.

All Venezuelan Hostages Free

PA211630 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1640 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 21 May (EFE)--All hostages--eight in all--being held captive in the Venezuelan Embassy in El Salvador since 11 May succeeded in obtaining their freedom at dawn. The report, officially confirmed by the state-owned VENPRES agency, states that following Ambassador Santiago Ochoa's departure late Sunday night, the rest of the hostages succeeded in a similar operation at dawn.

Incident in Ayutuxtepeque

PA211459 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1313 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 21 May (ACAN-EFE)--Unidentified leftists last night set fire to the municipal building in Ayutuxtepeque, 5 km north of San Salvador. Eyewitnesses told ACAN-EFE that three young women and a man threw Molotov cocktails at the building, causing heavy damage. The building was not burned to the ground due to the quick action by firemen.

Incident in Cuscatancingo

PA211806 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] In Cuscatancingo, El Salvador, attackers approached the mayor's office and, after beating the municipal police subdirector, threw incendiary material at the building, which did not catch fire.

San Salvador Bus Incident

PA211805 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 21 May (ACAN-EFE)--Unidentified persons set fire to a bus outside the office of the United Nations in Western San Salvador on Monday morning.

Bus company officials have been asking the authorities for protection in order to operate normal services in view of the fact that leftists have repeatedly set fire to buses to protest the arrest of three leaders of the People's Revolutionary Bloc whom the government has said are not under arrest. With this morning's burning of an urban bus, the number of mass transit vehicles set fire in this capital and in the interior now totals 17.

Bus Service in Virtual Halt

PA192313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1509 GMT 19 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 19 May (ACAN-EFE)--Thousands of Salvadorans were left stranded today in San Salvador when the bus service became increasingly scarce because of fear that the buses were going to bet set afire by leftists. On Friday night, several unidentified individuals burned one of buses in the northern sector of the capital. The cooperative which has the route franchise and controls other important metropolitan routes decided to suspend service effective today because of lack of guarantees. According to anonymous callers who have phoned ACAN-EFE, the extremists--who so far have burnt approximately 15 buses and 5 government vehicles--are carrying out these actions to exert pressure on the government for the release of three leaders of the People's Revolutionary Bloc whom the authorities claim they do not have.

Meanwhile in Tejutla, in northern El Salvador, unidentified youths dynamited a vehicle which belonged to the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. Shooting was heard in various parts of San Salvador at dawn today, but the police offices contacted by this correspondent claimed they did not know about them. The bus stops in the capital are crowded with people who have already protested because they claim they are suffering the consequences of a situation they did not create.

The number of persons killed in violent political actions increased over the past few hours. The authorities reported that the bodies of three unidentified individuals who looked like peasants were found in a place known as "El Playon" located in the western region of the country. A flag of the clandestine Popular Liberation Forces, subversive propaganda and a note stating that they had been "killed because they betrayed the cause," were found near the bodies of two of them. Two more bodies were found this morning in the country's interior.

Announcement of Bus Strike

PA210031 Paris AFP in Spanish 1714 GMT 20 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 20 May (AFP)--The bus owners in San Salvador announced here today that they will go on an indefinite strike beginning 25 May. They said that they will go on strike if the government does not give them a favorable answer to their petition to increase bus fares and protection against the burning of vehicles that has been taking place. During an urgent meeting held Saturday night, the bus owners said that 16 of their buses have been burned during the violence which has been taking place and that their losses amount to over $500,000.

They also said that the price of gasoline and the high price of vehicles make the situation intolerable. The buses were burned by persons who sympathize with the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which has seized the French and Venezuelan embassies as a pressure tactic to obtain the freedom of three of its leaders whom the government claims its does not have. There have also been clashes between BPR sympathizers and the authorities, which have resulted in several dead and wounded.

President on National Dialog

PA182313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2045 GMT 18 May 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 May (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero today accused Cuba and the other countries of the socialist bloc of encouraging the wave of violence which has left more than 40 persons dead and 50 wounded in his country in the last 12 days. During a news conference held at noon today in the Room of Honor of the presidential palace and attended by Salvadoran and foreign journalists, the president accused Cuba and the international communist movement of promoting subversion in El Salvador. On the proposal he made Thursday night over a national radio and television network to initiate talks to solve the Salvadoran crisis, Romero emphasized that the specific steps for these talks will be taken next week and that the extreme left will not participate. He explained that the illegal groups will not be invited to participate due to their violence and because they do not want real changes, but violence, which they have demonstrated by murdering policemen.

President Romero was accompanied by Vice President Julio Ernesto Astacio, Foreign Minister Antonio Rodriguez Porth, Planning Minister Eduardo Reyes, Defense and Public Security Minister Federico Castillo Yanes and Information Secretary Colonel Rafael Flores Lima. He said that the violent events in El Salvador have been aggravated by the shortage of land and the population explosion. On the 8 May events outside the occupied San Salvador Cathedral, which left more than 17 persons dead, dozens wounded and resulted in several arrests, Romero said that the police have instructions not to shoot but that on that occasion they were forced to defend themselves from shots fired by the leftist People's Revolutionary Bloc [BPR] demonstrators. The president reaffirmed that the three BPR members who are being demanded from the Security Corps as a condition to vacate the French and Venezuelan embassies are not being detained in any jail of the country.

Foreign Minister Rodriguez Porth said that the negotiators from Venezuela and France are being given all the facilities to make their mission a success. He added that so far there has been no telephone contact between President Romero and Venezuelan President Herrera Campins to solve the crisis in the Venezuelan Embassy in San Salvador. Replying to a question about possible constitutional amendments to consolidate the Salvadoran democracy, he said that this could be decided at the national talks. A general amnesty and a return of the Salvadorans who are involuntarily abroad for different reasons as a result of political events, could also be included on the agenda for the talks. On the prisoners demanded by the BPR to end its public protests, General Romero emphasized that generally leftist activists go underground and that the government has no control over them. He added that many of those arrested during the disturbances of the last few days have been released after questioning and investigation. He said that a state of siege could be declared depending on the development of events in the near future, but added that he will make every effort to normalize the situation in the country without going to that extreme, that is, the suspension of constitutional guarantees.

President Romero said that he is not exhausted but worried about the country's problems and the grave responsibility which he has as the head of state. Defense Minister General Castillo Yanes replied to a question about hard and soft lines within the Salvadoran Army's ranks by emphasizing that the armed forces of the country are professionals and that they have neither progressives nor nonprogressives, pointing out that these labels are part of a campaign promoted by disaffected sectors.

When President Romero was asked about the expulsion of Mexican nuns Nicolasa Ramirez and Beatriz Velasquez, he said it was a misinterpretation by the immigration officials, but added that neither nun was fulfilling her Catholic mission but meddling in political affairs. He said that they could return to the country. Concluding, Romero did not blame either the left or the right for the violence in El Salvador but the rapaciousness of the international communist movement which wants to impose its doctrine throughout the world by countering the democratic forces.

BPR Rejection of Dialog

PA191959 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1726 GMT 19 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 19 May (ACAN-EFE)--Spokesmen for the Labor Union Coordinating Committee of the leftist People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) told ACAN-EFE today, Saturday, that the bloc is unable, on principle, to compromise with the government. This is the bloc's reply to statements by President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero to the effect that extreme leftists will not participate in the national dialog to which he has called all Salvadoran sectors in an effort to overcome the wave of violence which in the last 12 days has left over 40 dead and some 50 injured in the country, in addition to causing serious damage to the Salvadoran economy.

On the evening of 17 May, the president announced over a radio and television network that he was proposing a general dialog to save the country. Yesterday, during a news conference with Salvadoran and foreign newsmen, he reiterated his summons to the forum but said that the left will have no seat there because they have taken the path of violence. Spokesmen for the Labor Union Coordinating Committee said that a broader statement with regard to the dialog will have to be made by the national directorate of the BPR.

The opposition parties--the Christian Democratic Party, Nationalist Democratic Union and National Revolutionary Movement--have not yet made a pronouncement. Yesterday, the Christian Democrats sought to obtain a recording of the president's news conference without explaining their purpose. The National Conciliation Party (PCN), which has been in power for over 17 years, has also reserved comment. The silence of all sectors regarding the matter does not auger well for the success of General Romero's proposal.

The aggressive BPR said today in this regard that the government does not wish to talk with the organizations which are really representative of the people. It added that the government is calling only on those so-called organizations which are made up of businessmen, political parties and other groups which do not represent the great majority of the Salvadoran people. The BPR members described the dialog as a government maneuver. They added that events have demonstrated who the real representatives of the people here are. The BPR members maintained that the persons killed in El Limon Canton in Soyapango on 16 May had not confronted the authorities, but rather were killed when the authorities dispersed a demonstration. Both of them were labor leaders, the bloc said.

Police reported at the time that two unidentified persons had attacked policemen with machineguns. Msgr Modesto Lopez, the parish priest of the cathedral, told ACAN-EFE by telephone this morning that he is very distressed over the prolonged occupation of the church. He has been inside the cathedral, along with four other priests, for over 2 weeks. The priest has called for the occupation to end as soon as possible, but the bloc does not agree, at least not until its demands are fully or partially met. It is demanding the release of three of its leaders, whom the government claims are not prisoners.

The situation in El Salvador is tense. The streets are deserted. Only half of the businesses are open and all persons who find it necessary to move about in the downtown area of the city do so with caution and haste, since a BPR demonstration is scheduled for this morning. Protest songs and messages broadcast by the BPR from the occupied cathedral can be heard night and day in the downtown part of the capital.

NICARAGUA

FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTIFIED OF MEXICAN-NICARAGUAN BREAK

PA211907 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 21 May (ACAN-EFE)--The Mexican Government today made official the announcement made yesterday by President Jose Lopez Portillo and handed Nicaraguan Ambassador Ernesto Navarro Richardson a note on the severing of relations with the Nicaraguan Government. Upon being informed of the note's delivery, the foreign minister invited local and foreign newsmen to a news conference that will be held in a few hours.

Comment by Foreign Minister

PA212334 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2045 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 21 May (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana admitted today, Monday, that the break in diplomatic relations between Mexico and Nicaragua entails "unforeseeable adverse consequences for this Central American nation." In a news conference held at the Foreign Ministry building in this capital, the Nicaraguan foreign minister added that Nicaragua will face "serious consequences" from the fact that Mexico "ended" diplomatic relations with this country effective yesterday, 20 May. "It must be admitted," the foreign minister added, "that Mexico has international prestige because it has adopted a 'very particular' system which maintains a single party in power in the country and also because it has a lethal weapon--oil--which it can utilize politically for economic reasons."

The Mexican Government officially delivered a Foreign Ministry note to Nicaraguan Ambassador Ernesto Navarro in the Mexican capital today, stating that President Jose Lopez Portillo's administration will extend to the Nicaraguan ambassador the guarantees provided for in the Caracas Convention until he returns to Nicaragua. At the same time, the Mexican Government also urged President Anastasio Somoza's government to extend equal guarantees to the Mexican diplomatic representative in Nicaragua, allowing him to leave the country along with the refugees who are in the Mexican Embassy. Discussing the matter in detail, Foreign Minister Quintana criticized the circumstances under which the Mexican Government decided to end its diplomatic relations with the government in Managua. He said that the action was the consequence of a new interference by Fidel Castro in the domestic affairs of Latin American countries.

Quintana said that Castro, a man with imperialist ambitions, was the "primary actor" in influencing the Mexican Government to make this decision during his recent trip to Cozumel. He said that the "supporting actor" in this case was Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, "who has made himself a public witness to the lack of respect for human rights in Nicaragua." Foreign Minister Quintana did not criticize the decision taken by the Mexican Government, stating that as a sovereign state, it has the right to end or renew relations with Nicaragua. However, he did criticize the circumstances under which the measure was taken by President Lopez Portillo's government. For this reason, the foreign minister described the Mexican measure as "hasty and unprecedented" and said that it had surprised the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry.

Quintana then said that the Mexican Government had "echoed the testimony of the president of a nation with which the Nicaraguan Government does not have diplomatic relations." In addition, he said, the Mexican Government, in contravention of the "doctrine of Dr Genaro Estrada, a doctrine which Nicaragua holds to be anti-interventionist, for the first time has taken upon itself the right to make reference to events in Nicaragua's domestic affairs which may or may not be true." The foreign minister said that, barring certain exceptions, he does not believe that other nations will "obey the ill-timed and hasty urging" of the Mexican Government, which has asked other states to also break relations with Nicaragua. In any case, Quintana said, it is up to the OAS to determine whether or not human rights are respected in Nicaragua. Asked how Fidel Castro could possibly influence the Mexican Government in making an important decision, the foreign minister gave several examples of what he described as intervention by the Havana government in the Caribbean area, Africa, Nicaragua, Chile and Uruguay.

Reaction of Opposition Leaders

PA211404 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Panama--Nicaraguan opposition leaders have reacted favorably to Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's decision to break relations with Nicaragua. Rafael Cordova Rivas, a prominent opposition leader, said that this had to happen some day because the world realizes that President Anastasio Somoza's government is committing genocide against the children and youth of Nicaragua.

FSLN on Break in Relations

PA211200 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0250 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Communique issued by the National Joint Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front on 20 May 1979]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front expresses its revolutionary joy over the Mexican Government's decision, made public today by President Jose Lopez Portillo, to sever diplomatic relations with the genocidal regime of Anastasio Somoza. This Mexican Government resolution represents the will of the sister nation which has been traditionally identified with the Sandinist cause. It should serve as an example to the other democratic governments on the continent, which should also sever relations with the bloody Somozist dictatorship in order to make its isolation effective now that the people, with the FSLN at the head, are engaged in the final battle for the victory of our liberation and democratic cause.

Peru in Charge of Mexican Affairs

PA212112 Paris AFP in Spanish 2050 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 May (AFP)--Peruvian Foreign Minister Garcia Bedoya announced here today that Peru has taken charge of Mexico's affairs in Nicaragua following the break of relations between the latter two countries.

PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED HOME ON 'BUSINESS'

PA220438 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0024 GMT 22 May 79 PA

[Text] Panamanian Ambassador to Nicaragua Mario J. de Obaldia has been called home on urgent business by his government. He left for his country this morning on instructions from his Foreign Ministry.

The Panamanian ammbassador's departure is believed to be in connection with statements made by the genocidal Somoza to the effect that Gen Omar Torrijos, chief of government of Panama [title as heard], was a scoundrel and a traitor. These words by the tyrant Somoza have led the Panamanian Government to also consider breaking relations with the Nicaraguan Government, as Mexico did yesterday.

MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT

PA181723 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1640 GMT 18 May 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 18 May (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintana summoned U.S. Charge d'Affaires Frank M. Tucker to his office yesterday to protest a recent State Department pronouncement. According to official sources who did not disclose the details of the meeting between the Nicaraguan official and the U.S. Government representative, Foreign Minister Quintana expressed the views held by Gen Anastasio Somoza's government in connection with a State Department document dated 14 May. The document referred to the IMF grant of credits for up to $65 million to the Nicaraguan Government. After deploring the Managua government's stubborn attitude toward accepting and seeking a prompt and democratic solution to that country's political crisis, the document disclosed the various pressure measures adopted by the Carter administration against Somoza, such as withdrawing its military mission and reducing its diplomatic presence. The U.S. Government also deplored constant violations of human rights in Nicaragua and suggested that the situation will not improve unless the domestic political crisis is resolved. Regarding the latter point, it offered to help in any way possible.

Previous to this, a Nicaraguan Government spokesman had said that the U.S. government, like that of Nicaragua, is free and sovereign when it comes to determining the scope of its relations with other states. The same source stressed the mutual respect that should prevail between the two governments, based on the principles that regulate international relations. This is the second time the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has protested a State Department document in connection with the political and economic crisis currently affecting this Central American country.

FSLN PROTESTS PLAN FOR SOMOZA'S USE OF HONDURAN ARMY

PA211346 Paris AFP in Spanish 0033 GMT 21 May 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 20 May (AFP)--The International Committee of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) issued a call to the international public to condemn a plan to use the Honduran Army to support President Anastasio Somozo's regime. In a communique delivered to AFP, the FSLN said that "a military operation is being planned along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border with the participation of the Honduran Army and the Nicaraguan National Guard."

"The operation is intended to place our guerrilla forces, which have raised their freedom-seeking rifles against the most oppobrious dictatorship of America and the world, in a crossfire," the front communique added. Meanwhile, AFP learned from a telephone conversation with Nicaragua that the FSLN is now fighting not only in Jinotega, in northern Nicaragua but also, since midday, in Granada, 99 km south of Managua.

GRENADA

ARMS RECEIVED FROM CUBA FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES

FL211350 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 May 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Grenada has admitted to the West Indies Associated States (WISA) Council that it received arms from Cuba, but said they were only for defensive purposes, informed sources here disclosed yesterday.

The admission was said to have been made during the council's two-day meeting in Castries, St. Lucia, which ended Wednesday night.

Grenada had not been invited to the meeting, but sent a representative, Education Minister Mr. George Louison.

Grenada's People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) under Mr. Maurice Bishop had asked regional and other states for arms because of what is said was an invasion threat from ousted Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy and foreign mercenaries.

There was no indication what type of weapons Cuba sent to St. George's, but the sources said yesterday they certainly were not missiles.

The U.S. State Department said a month ago it would be concerned if Grenada developed military or security ties with Cuba.

Grenada is also understood to have apologists at the Castries meeting for an incident on April 10 in which two vessels with members of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) were turned away from St. Vincent's Union Island.

St. Vincent had said at the time that the boats contained 16 armed paratroops and had docked at Union Island's Clifton jetty early that morning.

The Grenadian commander, Matthew Welsh, told the island authorities they had heard Sir Eric was there and they had come to get him.

The official Grenada position is that the provisional government had not authorised the mission.

The sources said that at the Castries meeting, Mr. Louison gave assurances about the holding of free and fair elections to return the country to constitutionality, but did not set a time frame within which such would be done.

ELECTIONS TO CONTINUE, BUT SECURITY, ECONOMY COME FIRST

FL211515 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 May 79 p 1 FL

[By Norris Solomon]

[Text] Grenada intends to continue with the electoral form of government, according to Mr. Bernard Coard, the country's minister of finance, trade, industry and planning.

The Grenada Government was in contact with "eminent scholars and jurists" in the region and was seeking advice towards drafting a new constitution and holding elections, he added.

The situation was explained by Mr. Coard at a press conference at the Trinidad Hilton shortly before his departure for Grenada after visiting Trinidad and Tobago in efforts to arrange for cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Coard said an electoral commission of three people of "highest integrity and respect" had been appointed and laws of boundaries had been enacted. The boundaries for the constituencies remained the same, he said.

The Grenada minister said the government had already received comments from persons contacted.

Mr. Coard did not give any time limit for the holding of elections. He said while the Grenada Government intended to continue with the electoral form of government, the main priority now was national security and economic stabilisation.

The new government, headed by Mr. Maurice Bishop, seized control of Grenada from former prime minister Sir Eric Gairy in an early morning mid-March coup.

Mr. Coard said Grenada had never been ruled constitutionally or democratically as the country moved from colonialism to "Gairyism."

He said: "We are taking steps towards establishing for the first time in the history of Grenada, democratic and constitutional rule."

Grenada, he said, intended to remain free and unaligned and would take aid wherever it could get it.

The minister said: "We are not going to sit back in Grenada and die to satisfy purists. We are not part of any bloc or axis or in anybody's camp. We are free, non-aligned and intend to remain that way."

Grenada would not allow itself to be blockaded or starved, he added.

The Grenada finance minister was not prepared to state whether there was any Cuban military presence in Grenada. He invited the media to visit Grenada and see for themselves the situation and talk to the people. The press, he said, was free to talk to the detainees as well.

The minister said he was not commenting on any matter relating to security. Grenada had asked a number of countries for assistance following the threat of mercenaries and received aid from some.

Mr. Coard said the people of Grenada defended the revolution. The people of Grenada were experiencing freedom for the first time. People could speak freely and were also free to practice their religion and no censorship was imposed on the press.

He said that under the Gairy government people were harassed and now, for the first time, people were experiencing an end to police brutality.

Government, he said, was now in the process of abolishing all anti-worker legislation from the statute books and drafting legislation to protect workers' rights to join the union of their choice. They were also looking at equal rights and equal pay for women.

Mr. Coard said there was enormous enthusiasm among workers in the country and persons were working late hours in agriculture, the civil service, the waterfront and all sectors of the society.

The government, he said, had set up a national importation board and was able to reduce the price of rice by eight per cent and the price of imported sugar by about 20 per cent.

He said that within a few weeks, the price of cement might be reduced by about 200 per cent.

Further Report

FL211510 Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 May 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Grenada is proposing economic cooperation with Trinidad and Tobago for the mutual benefit of both countries.

In addition, the Grenada Government is asking specifically for economic and technical assistance which would help Grenada in its "hour of economic need."

Mr. Bernard Coard, Grenada's minister of finance, trade, industry and planning explained Grenada's stand at a press conference at the Hilton Hotel yesterday shortly before he left for Grenada after a three day visit.

Mr. Coard explained that he had met senior government officials and had indirect contact at ministerial level.

He said the relations between the Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada governments were cordial and he hoped they would be fruitful.

The Grenada minister said his visit from the point of view of objectives was successful and preferred not to comment on talks since the discussions were delicate.

Mr. Coard said some people felt that Grenada's only interest in Trinidad was to be some part of a "begging operation."

"Whether we got assistance or not, we could still be concerned with having the closest relationship with Trinidad and Tobago," he said, as the links were there.

Mr. Coard said that increased trade and cooperation would be mutually beneficial to the two countries and it was not that Grenada was coming "cap in hand."

What the Government of Grenada was proposing, he said, was economic cooperation of mutual benefit to both countries and apart from the cooperation was asking specifically for economic and technical assistance from its CARICOM partners, Trinidad and Tobago.

While his visit was unofficial, it was to pave the way for more formal contact in a comprehensive way, hopefully in the near future, he said.

Mr. Coard explained that his government had tried to establish relations with Trinidad and Tobago shortly after the mid-March coup that toppled Sir Eric Gairy, through indirect and informal contact.

He said he held discussions with Rep George Chambers, minister of industry and commerce and minister of agriculture, lands and fisheries, during the Caribbean Development Bank's board of governors meeting in Barbados earlier this month.

The discussions were friendly and cordial, he said.

Mr Coard said that the reality of bonds between Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada "are too strong and can survive any outburst of chauvinism by minorities."

He said Grenada was strongly committed to Caribbean integration and there had to be mutual respect on behalf of all partners in CARICOM.

"We won't tolerate anyone telling us how to conduct our domestic affairs. Mutual respect we see is important and we are trying to reorient our trade to purchase as much as we could from CARICOM," he added.

JAMAICA

IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT TO BEGIN OFFICIAL TALKS

FI211214 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 21 May 79 FL

[Excerpt] A top-level Iraqi delegation led by Vice President Taha Ma' ruf will today begin formal talks with government officials. A meeting with Prime Minister Manley as well as discussions on matters of mutual interest to Iraq and Jamaica are scheduled to take place during the day.

The Iraqi delegation arrived in the island yesterday for a 2-day visit. Iraq is the third largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the visit by Vice President Ma' ruf has been described as important in strengthening relations between Latin America and the Arab world and in finding solutions to Third World problems. The Iraqis have just ended a visit to Guyana which resulted in the signing of a trade agreement. A joint communique issued yesterday said the two countries had agreed to foster closer trading relations but gave no indication of what will be exchanged as the two nonalined countries move to establish closer links.

Oil Exploration Aid Offered

FI211447 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 May 79 FL

[Excerpt] At a press conference, yesterday shortly after the arrival of the 26-member Iraqi delegation, [Iraqi] Vice President Ma' ruf pronounced that his government has offered to assist Jamaica in its oil exploration efforts. And he indicated that Jamaica in its oil exploration efforts. And he indicated that Jamaica could be of assistance to Iraq in developing its tourist industry. The Iraqi vice president told newsmen that he was in Jamaica to further discussions started several years ago between the two countries. He also hoped the visit would help consolidate the relationship between countries active in the Third World with a view to furthering the search for a new international economic order.